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LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

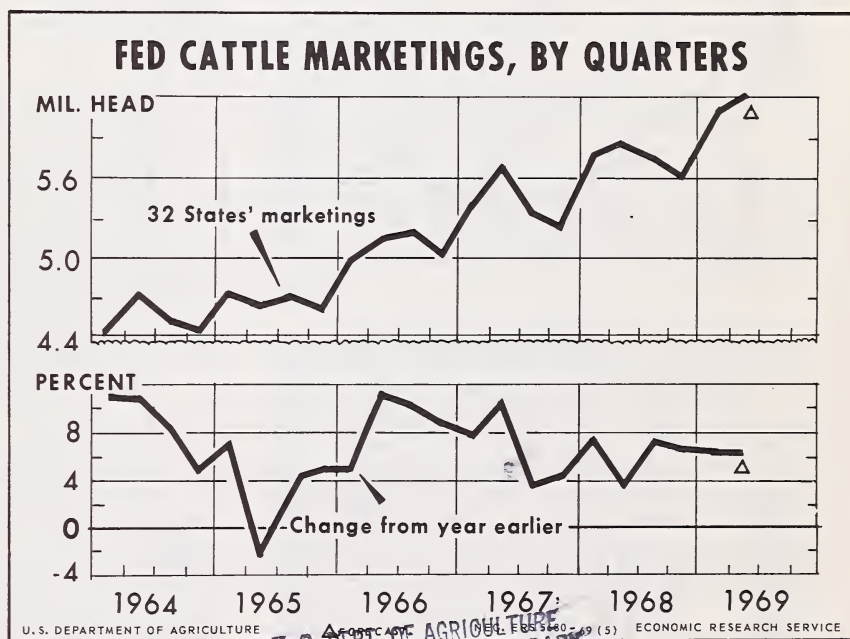


LMS-167

MAY 1969

Fed cattle marketings are continuing upward. Winter shipments of fed cattle were 6 percent larger than a year earlier and on April 1, cattle feeders said they plan a similar increase in spring marketings.

Shipments out of feedlots will continue large in the summer, since on April 1 there were 4 to 6 percent more cattle on feed in weight groups that usually reach slaughter finish after midyear.



IN THIS ISSUE

International Trade in Livestock
and Meat

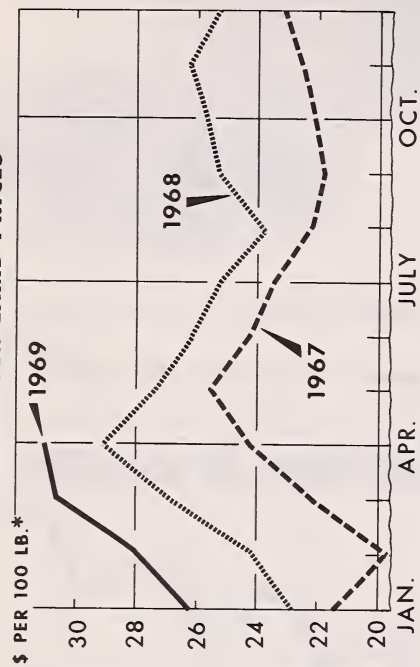
Regional Calf Production
and Slaughter

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MAY 1969

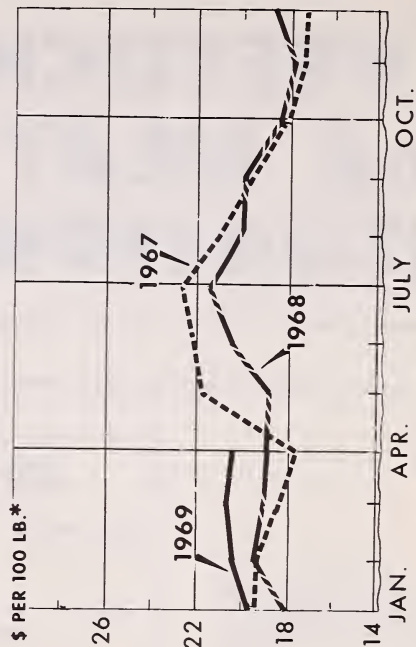
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES



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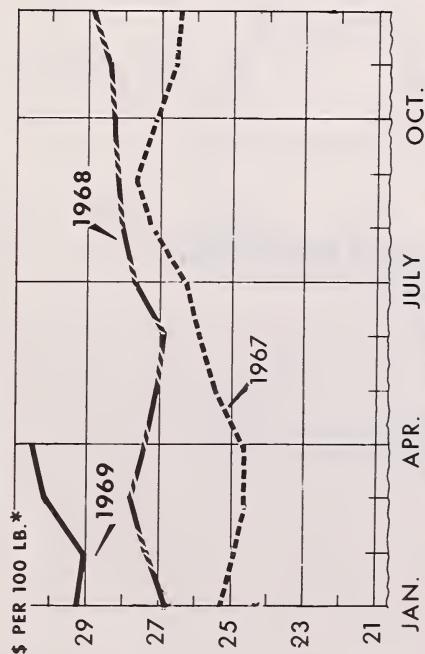
HOG PRICES



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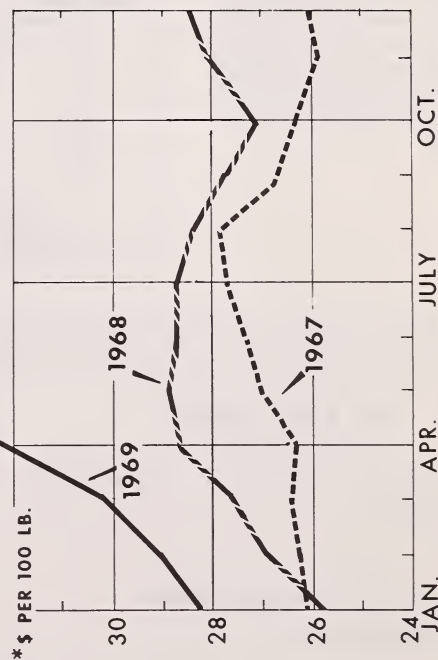
SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES



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FEEDER STEER PRICES



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Hog-corn price ratios have favored hog production, and production is continuing to increase this year. Market hogs (excludes breeding stock) on farms in 10 Corn Belt States on March 1 were about 4 percent above a year earlier. These hogs will provide the bulk of slaughter supplies through summer. Producers reported plans to have 5-6 percent more sows farrow during March-August than a year earlier. Pigs born in these months will be shipped to slaughter next fall and winter.

Hog prices rose \$2 during the winter, and in late April barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged about \$20.40 per 100 pounds--\$1.65 above a year earlier. Prices are expected to rise seasonally this spring and into summer, before declining in the fall. On balance, prices in the second half will likely average near or above the \$19.40 a year earlier.

The sheep and lamb inventory is expected to continue downward this year, but the rate of decline may slow. Sheep and lamb slaughter in the first quarter was 8 percent below a year earlier, and the decline is expected to continue. The 1969 lamb crop will be smaller, and there may be some additional withholding of ewe lambs.

Lamb prices advanced during the winter, and in early April fed lambs at San Angelo were selling near \$28.00 per 100 pounds--\$2 above a year ago. Spring lambs were quoted at \$31.75 in early April--\$2.75 above a year earlier. However, spring lambs dropped \$1.50 later in the month. Prices may decline seasonally this summer but likely will continue above a year earlier.

SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

Consumer Demand Continues Strong

Consumer demand for meat continued strong in the first quarter and livestock prices rose even though red meat production was nearly 3 percent larger than a year earlier. Per capita consumption of red meat during January-March was only slightly larger than a year earlier because part of the increase in production was offset by population growth. Poultry consumption per capita was larger.

Choice steers at Chicago averaged \$29.50 per 100 pounds in the winter, about \$2.20 higher than a year earlier. Price strength for other livestock included: hogs--up \$1.40, lambs--up \$3.50, feeder cattle--up \$2.50 to \$3, and cows--up \$1.40.

Rising livestock prices, along with steady per capita consumption, reflect the effects of stronger consumer demand and rises in the general price level. Consumer incomes so far this year have continued to rise rapidly, and unemployment rates have been exceptionally low. The combined effect of these developments on

consumer demand largely explains why prices and production have gone up at the same time.

Demand for red meats is expected to continue strong throughout 1969, and livestock prices likely will remain favorable to producers. However, current measures to curb inflation may temper increases in incomes and the unusually strong demand for meat later this year. Thus, as 1969 progresses, livestock prices may be more responsive to increases in output than in late 1968 and early this year.

Switch to Federal Inspection Affects Data

Current livestock slaughter statistics reflect the accelerated increase in the number of plants operating under Federal inspection since passage of the Wholesome Meat Act in December 1967. Slaughter statistics for federally inspected plants, therefore, do not compare exactly with those for the same period a year earlier. Total commercial data, however, remain comparable to the previous year, since most new plants coming under

Federal inspection were included in the commercial data the year before.

New plants granted Federal inspection since early 1968 have increased the proportion of total commercial slaughter done in federally inspected plants. In March, for example, the proportion of total commercial slaughter accounted for by federally inspected plants was: Cattle, 86.3 percent, up 3.7 percentage points from March 1968; calves, 77.8 percent, up 6.8 percentage points; hogs, 90.5 percent, up 3.0 percentage points; and sheep and lambs, 94.3 percent, up 4.2 percentage points.

CATTLE

Fed Cattle Marketings Up 6 Percent in First Quarter

Cattle feeders marketed 6 percent more cattle out of feedlots during January-March than in these months a year ago. All of the increase came in the West--up 18 percent. Corn Belt feeders marketed 1 percent fewer. This is similar to the 1968 fall pattern, when marketings in the West were 15 percent larger than a year earlier, but Corn Belt marketings were up only 2 percent.

Average live weight of Choice steers at 7 markets

Month	1967	1968	1969
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
Jan.	1,159	1,146	1,130
Feb.	1,156	1,144	1,120
Mar.	1,152	1,141	1,113
Apr.	1,153	1,141	
May	1,155	1,149	
June	1,143	1,148	
July	1,133	1,126	
Aug.	1,115	1,105	
Sept.	1,116	1,098	
Oct.	1,116	1,101	
Nov.	1,132	1,116	
Dec.	1,132	1,123	
Year	1,139	1,129	

Severe winter weather in the Midwest slowed feeding gains and average market weights remained considerably lighter than a year ago. For example, Choice steers at 7 markets averaged 23 pounds lighter than during January-March 1968. A larger proportion of fed cattle from the Western States, where cattle are usually not fed to as heavy weights as in the Corn Belt, also helped hold weights down last winter. The 1 to 2 percent reduction in average weights held the increase in fed beef output last winter to something less than the 6 percent increase in the number of head marketed.

Cow slaughter was up slightly during the winter. However, nonfed steer and heifer slaughter was considerably smaller than a year earlier. This, plus lighter average weights of fed cattle, helped offset the 6 percent increase in marketings out of feedlots. On balance, beef production during January-March was only 2 percent larger than a year earlier.

Steer prices at Chicago, 1967-69

Month	Choice steers		
	1967	1968	1969
	Dollars per 100 pounds		
Jan.	25.25	26.87	29.23
Feb.	24.92	27.34	29.11
Mar.	24.67	27.75	30.19
Apr.	24.66	27.49	31.00
May	25.46	27.16	
June	25.88	26.89	
July	26.40	27.64	
Aug.	27.22	28.01	
Sept.	27.62	28.20	
Oct.	26.97	28.21	
Nov.	26.51	28.46	
Dec.	26.45	28.88	
Av.	26.04	27.74	

Fed cattle prices rose during 1968 and then continued higher during the winter. In April, Choice steers at Chicago were selling for \$31 per 100 pounds. This was \$3.50 higher than a year earlier and about \$1.75 above prices in January. Price

risers were rather general throughout the country even though all of the increase in marketings was in the West. For example, California prices for Choice steers, 900-1100 pounds in April, were \$30.90, up \$3.25 from prices in January.

Market strength for fed cattle accompanied stepped-up marketings out of feedlots and larger supplies of pork and poultry. Playing a part in higher prices were: unusually strong consumer demand due to increases in population and income and lighter average slaughter weights.

More Fed Cattle This Spring

Cattle feeders plan to market 6 percent more cattle out of feedlots this spring than in April-June 1968. This would be 2 percent more than were marketed in the winter. Cattle feeders in the West will again account for all of the increase. They plan to market 17 percent more cattle this spring than last, but Corn Belt feeders intend to sell 1 percent fewer.

There were 18 percent more cattle and calves on feed on April 1 in the Western States than on this date last year. There were 2 percent more heifers weighing 700 to 900 pounds and 21 percent more steers weighing 900 to 1,100 pounds. These cattle will supply the bulk of spring marketings in the West. Cattle feeders, therefore, could readily carry out their spring marketing plans. However, even if spring marketings are up 17 percent, Western feeders would still market about 3 percent fewer cattle than they did in the winter.

Corn Belt feeders had only 3 percent more cattle on feed on April 1, compared with an increase of 8 percent at the beginning of 1969. The increase over a year earlier narrowed because winter placements were down 12 percent while marketings were nearly as large as a year ago.

Winter placements were limited by severe weather in the Corn Belt late last year. December placements, however, were boosted by heavy snows that forced some

cattle off stubble fields and into feedlots before the end of the year. But severe winter weather slowed placements during January and February. For example, placements in Iowa and Nebraska (only Corn Belt States for which monthly data are available) in December were 19 percent larger than a year earlier, but they were down 23 percent in January and 34 percent in February. In March, placements in these States were up 12 percent.

On April 1, Corn Belt feeders had about the same number of steers and heifers on feed as a year ago in weight groups that typically furnish most of April-June marketings. This is reflected in plans of Corn Belt cattle feeders who have said they intend to market slightly fewer cattle this spring than last. But marketings in the Corn Belt would still be 4 percent larger than during the winter.

Market weights of fed cattle, running a little lighter this year, are expected to remain under a year earlier this spring. But they may begin to approach 1968 weights around midyear. Fed cattle marketings this spring will include a larger proportion of steers, which are marketed at heavier weights than heifers. On April 1, there were 9 percent more steers on feed but only 3 percent more heifers. Also, some cattle feeders may lengthen feeding programs because replacement costs of feeder cattle in recent months have been much higher while feed costs have been up only a little.

Fed beef production this spring likely will top winter output; larger quantities of pork and broilers are also expected. Fed cattle prices this spring likely will continue well above prices in April-June 1968 when Choice steers at Chicago were \$27.20 per 100 pounds. In April, Choice steers were \$31. Prices may weaken in late spring from the pressure of increased supplies of fed beef, especially if market weights go up.

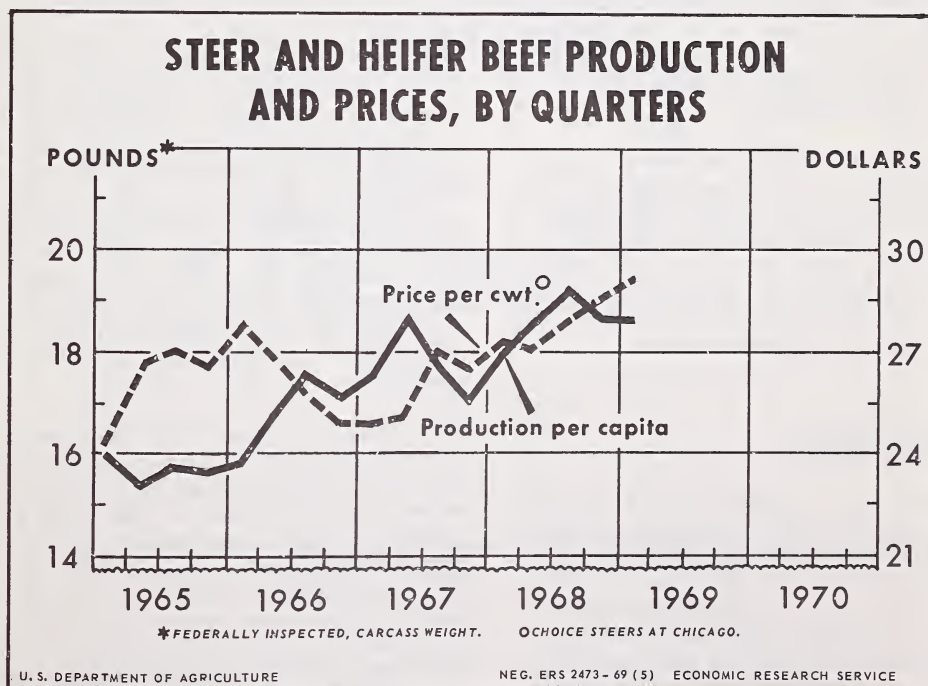
Summer Marketings to Stay Large

Fed cattle marketings this summer are expected to continue moderately above

Table 1.--Number of cattle and calves on feed April 1, by regions, and percent change from previous year, 1963 to date

Year	North Central States			Texas and Okla- homa	Western States	Total 1/
	East North Central	West North Central	Total			
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1963	1,532	4,188	5,720	442	2,179	8,478
1964	1,540	4,533	6,073	442	2,199	9,006
Percent change from 1963	+0.5	+8.2	+6.2	0	+0.9	
1965	1,550	4,535	6,085	466	2,138	8,985
Percent change from 1964	+0.6	+0.04	+0.2	+5.4	-2.8	
1966	1,718	5,129	6,847	662	2,396	10,226
Percent change from 1965	+10.8	+13.1	+12.5	+42.1	+12.1	
1967	1,688	5,285	6,973	803	2,423	10,483
Percent change from 1966	-1.7	+3.0	+1.8	+21.3	+1.1	
1968	1,643	5,452	7,095	902	2,374	10,665
Percent change from 1967	-2.7	+3.2	+1.7	+12.3	-2.0	
1969	1,709	5,568	7,277	1,190	2,669	11,419
Percent change from 1968	+4.0	+2.1	+2.6	+31.9	+12.4	

1/ 28 States through 1963; then 32 States.



a year earlier. On April 1, there were 6 percent more steers weighing 700 to 900 pounds and 3 percent more heifers weighing 500 to 700 pounds. Many of these cattle will reach slaughter finish in the summer. Of course, summer marketings will also include some cattle that are placed on feed this spring. With favorable feeding ratios and the supply of feeder cattle about the same as a year ago, placements this spring are expected to be larger than last spring. This will help support continued larger marketings this summer, although at perhaps less than the plus-6-percent rate of increase prevailing so far in 1969.

Summer increases in fed cattle marketings may be sharpest in the West--based on the number of lightweight cattle on feed April 1. Very little increase is indicated for the Corn Belt.

Average live weights of fed cattle declined considerably during July-September 1968, thus limiting gains in fed beef production at that time. Choice steers at 7 markets averaged 1,110 pounds last summer, 11 pounds lighter than a year earlier. This summer, weights likely will be averaging near those of a year earlier and increases in fed beef output likely will be about the same as increases in the number of head marketed.

Supplies of competing meats this summer, especially pork and broilers, are expected to run larger than a year earlier. But if demand for meat remains unusually strong, fed cattle prices this summer are expected to continue strong and average well above the \$28 per 100 pounds of a year earlier (Choice steers at Chicago).

Feeder Cattle Prices to Continue Strong

Feeder cattle prices rose \$2 per 100 pounds during the winter, repeating the previous winter's pattern. Choice steers at Kansas City, 550 to 750 pounds, averaged about \$28.40 per 100 pounds last December. In March, they were \$30.30, nearly \$2.75 higher than a year earlier. Prices also increased at most other mar-

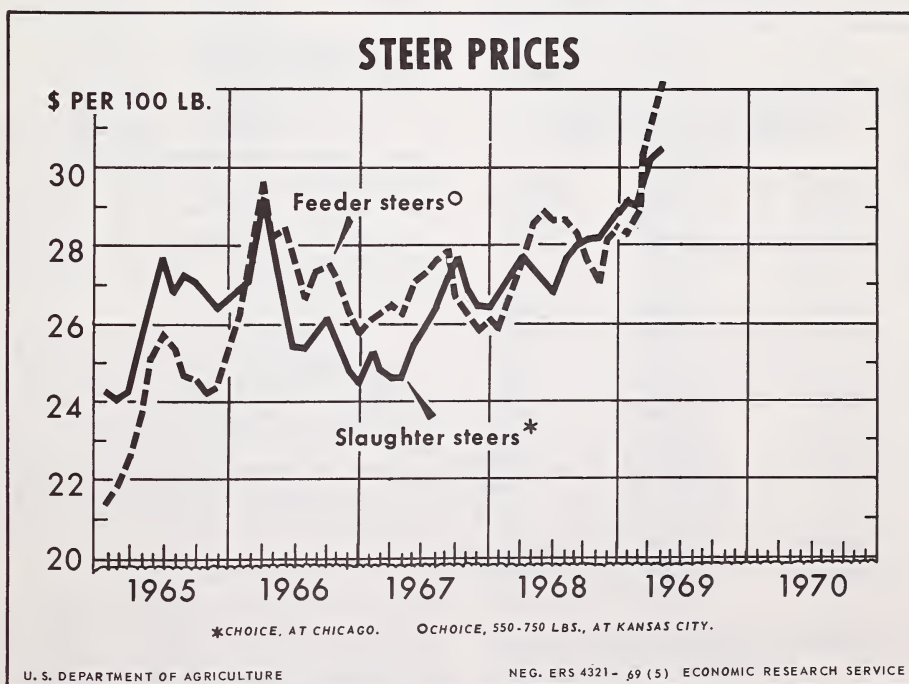
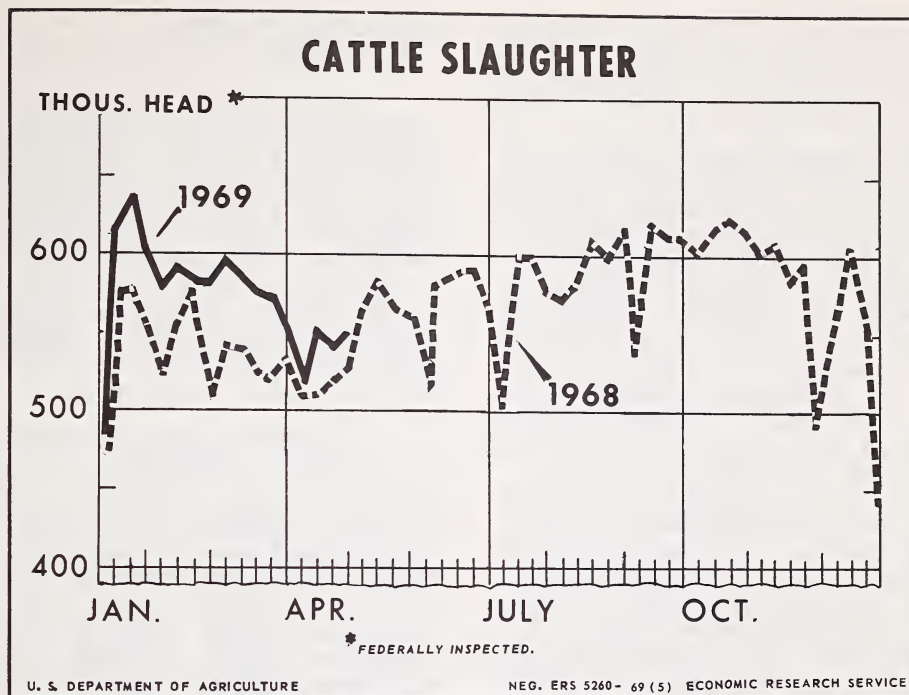
kets, reflecting strength from both seasonally smaller movement and higher fed cattle prices.

Feeder cattle prices at Kansas City, 1968-69

Month	Choice feeder steers		Choice feeder steer calves	
	550-750 lb.			
	1968	1969	1968	1969
	Dollars per 100 pounds			
Jan.	25.82	28.30	28.69	31.15
Feb.	26.94	29.04	29.52	32.26
Mar.	27.60	30.34	30.46	34.39
Apr.	28.64	32.64	31.04	36.74
May	28.90		32.95	
June	28.69		32.54	
July	28.75		32.50	
Aug.	28.40		32.10	
Sept.	27.74		31.42	
Oct.	27.09		30.89	
Nov.	28.11		31.50	
Dec.	28.42		31.50	
Av.	27.92		31.26	

At the beginning of the year, there were about a half-million fewer feeder cattle available for feedlot replacements than a year earlier. The January 1 inventory included fewer yearlings but more calves. Placements during January-March were down 1 percent and imports of live cattle, although seasonally reduced, were 11 percent larger than a year earlier. Consequently, the available supply of feeder cattle this spring likely is nearly as large as last spring--perhaps fewer heavy yearlings, but probably more light yearlings.

Feedlot demand for replacement cattle is expected to continue high. The Nation's feedlot capacity continues to expand and this adds to the demand for feeders. Also, fed cattle prices were strong throughout the fall and winter and the relationship between feed cost and cattle prices has been favorable for cattle feeders. These factors likely will encourage cattle feeders to put more cattle on feed during the spring and summer



this year. But with the smaller supplies of heavy yearling cattle, light yearlings likely will account for a larger percentage of the cattle placed on feed.

In late April, Choice steers at Kansas City, 550 to 750 pounds, were averaging about \$34 per 100 pounds. Feeder cattle prices are expected to continue near recent levels this spring and then remain strong in the summer, before declining seasonally next fall. Demand for lightweight cattle to put on spring grass and for replacements in feedlots likely will hold the stronger tone for feeder cattle through summer. Prices of yearling steers recently have been \$1 to \$3 higher than prices of fed cattle at the same market. Fed cattle currently coming to slaughter are being marketed at prices above what they cost when purchased in the fall as replacement cattle. Later this year, many fed cattle will be sold for less per pound than they cost as feeder cattle this spring unless fed cattle prices continue to rise.

Current fed cattle prices and
feeder cattle prices 5 months earlier

Year	Fed Cattle 1/	Feeder Cattle 2/	Margin
	Dollars per 100 pounds		
1968			
Jan.	26.96	27.84	- .88
Feb.	27.81	26.74	+1.07
Mar.	28.05	26.38	+1.67
Apr.	27.79	25.89	+1.90
May	27.37	26.03	+1.34
June	26.88	25.82	+1.06
July	27.61	26.94	+ .67
Aug.	27.78	27.60	+ .18
Sept.	27.90	28.64	- .74
Oct.	28.14	28.90	- .76
Nov.	28.57	28.69	- .12
Dec.	28.86	28.75	+ .11
1969			
Jan.	29.12	28.40	+ .72
Feb.	29.26	27.74	+1.52
Mar.	30.38	27.09	+3.29
Apr.	30.90	28.11	+2.79

1/ Choice steers at Chicago, 900-1,100 pounds.

2/ Choice steers at Kansas City, 550-750 pounds.

Calf Slaughter Lower
Last Winter

Commercial calf slaughter has been declining since 1965. Last year, calf slaughter was 8 percent smaller than in 1967. The downtrend continued in the winter when 7 percent fewer calves were slaughtered than in January-March 1968. Reduced calf slaughter reflects the decline in dairy herds and stronger feeder cattle prices. Since these trends are expected to continue, calf slaughter this spring and summer likely will remain 5 to 8 percent under a year ago.

Slaughter calf prices have been very strong so far this year. Choice grade veal calves in April at South St. Paul were about \$41 per 100 pounds, \$7 higher than a year earlier. Prices rose from a fall low of just under \$32 in November and December to \$41 in March. Prices were mostly steady in April. This spring and summer, veal calf prices likely will average higher than a year earlier. However, the margin over 1968 may not be as large as in late winter and early spring.

Cow Slaughter About
Like Last Year

Cow slaughter (estimated commercial) last winter was slightly larger than a year earlier, following a 1 percent annual increase in 1968 over the preceding year. Imports of beef were 7 percent larger during January-March and hog slaughter was up about 4 percent.

At the beginning of this year, there were slightly more cows on farms--the increase in beef cows during 1968 slightly more than offset the reduction in dairy cows. The decline in dairy cow numbers may be slowing a little this year, and the gradual buildup underway in beef cows in recent years likely is continuing.

Cow slaughter drops to a seasonal low in the spring, then begins to rise again in the late summer. Cow slaughter this spring and summer likely will be about the same as a year earlier because the national cow herd is only a little

larger than a year ago and current trends likely will continue this year.

Prices of Utility cows at Chicago last November dropped to a fall low of \$17 per 100 pounds. Since then, prices have risen steadily. Cow prices usually rise seasonally after the larger slaughter movement in the fall subsides. The price rise this winter and early spring was about \$3.30 per 100 pounds. In April, Utility cows at Chicago were nearly \$21 per 100 pounds, about \$1 higher than last April.

Utility cow prices at Chicago,
1967-69

Month	1967	1968	1969
	Dollars per 100 pounds		
Jan.	16.98	16.35	18.20
Feb.	17.92	17.98	19.02
Mar.	18.00	19.09	20.43
Apr.	17.74	19.88	20.70
May	18.51	19.58	
June	18.89	19.61	
July	18.37	18.88	
Aug.	17.79	19.04	
Sept.	17.44	18.49	
Oct.	16.68	18.13	
Nov.	15.89	16.98	
Dec.	16.09	17.36	
Av.	17.52	18.45	

Cow slaughter this spring and summer is expected to continue to run near year-earlier levels, but beef imports likely will be up and hog slaughter is expected to remain larger than in 1968. Cow prices likely will continue around current levels through spring, but then decline seasonally in the summer. However, with continued strong demand, prices likely will remain above a year earlier.

HOGS

Relatively favorable hog prices last year induced hog producers to keep increasing the number of hogs raised. The 1968 pig crop was up 3 percent following a

5 percent increase in 1967. Recent reports point to further expansion this year. The December 1968-February 1969 pig crop in 10 Corn Belt States was up 3 percent. Moreover, producers reported intentions to increase the number of sows farrowing during March-August by 5-6 percent. Since the 10 States include about 75 percent of the hogs raised in the United States, production shifts within these States are generally representative of changes taking place in the industry.

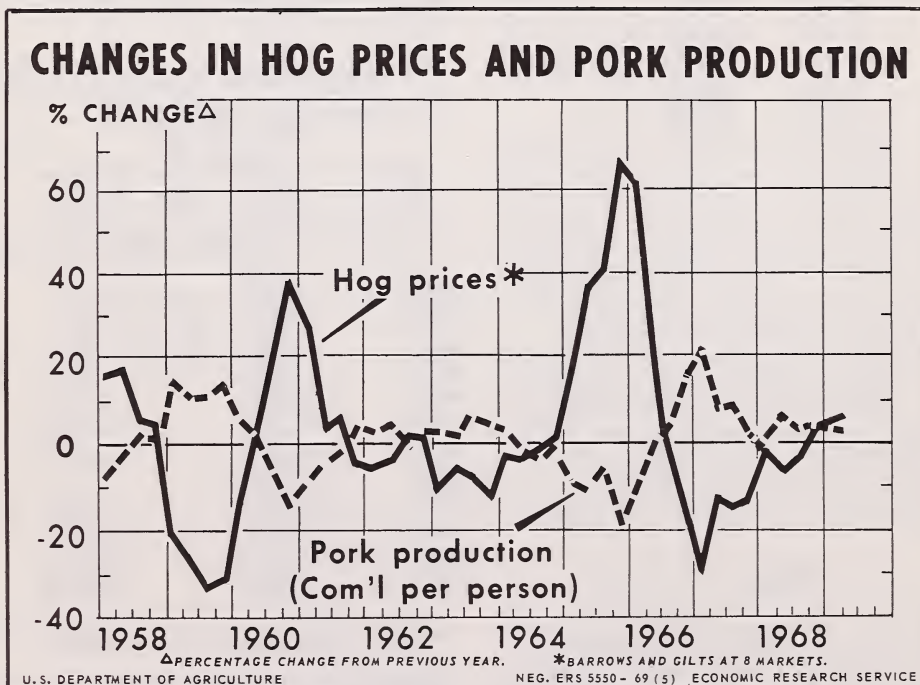
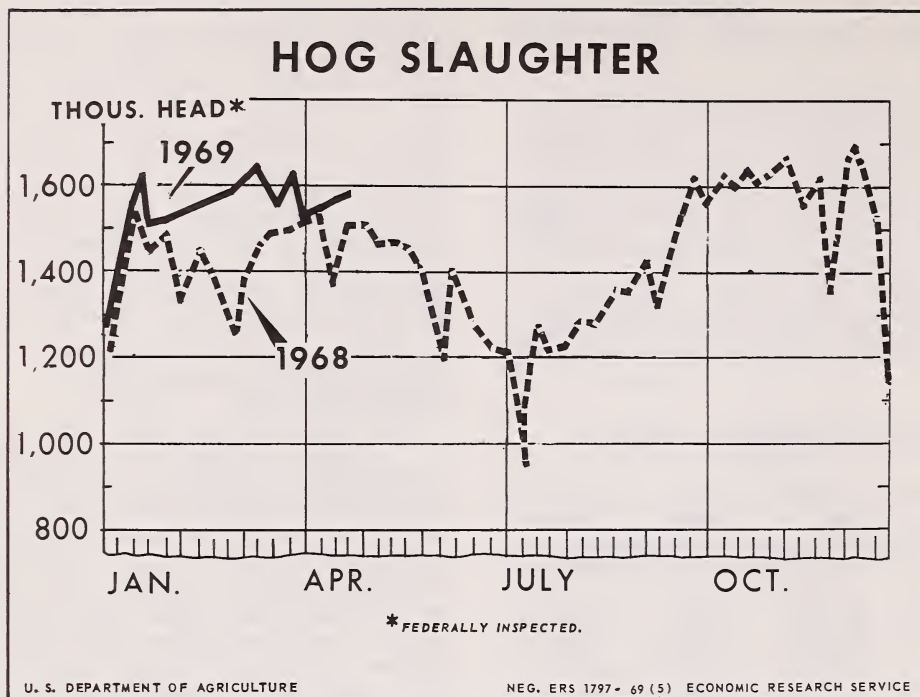
Winter Slaughter Above 1968;
Prices Also Up

There were 4 percent more hogs slaughtered in 1968 than in 1967, and hog marketings continued large last winter. Commercial slaughter in January-March totaled 22.2 million head, 4 percent above the first quarter of 1968. In addition to the increased supply of pork, beef production was larger--more than offsetting smaller output of veal and lamb and mutton. Beef production in the first quarter was up 2 percent, lamb and mutton was down 7 percent, veal was 5 percent smaller, but poultry production was 5 percent larger.

Hog prices at 8 markets, 1968-69

Month	: Barrows and :		: Sows 1/ :	
	: gilts 1/ :			
	: 1968	: 1969	: 1968	: 1969
	: <u>Dollars per 100 pounds</u>			
Jan.	: 18.31	19.77	14.57	15.93
Feb.	: 19.41	20.41	16.05	17.56
Mar.	: 19.07	20.69	16.46	18.28
Apr.	: 19.00	20.38	16.28	18.20
May	: 18.88		15.73	
June	: 20.43		16.68	
July	: 21.48		17.58	
Aug.	: 20.08		17.14	
Sept.	: 19.93		17.40	
Oct.	: 18.29		16.50	
Nov.	: 17.92		15.25	
Dec.	: 18.76		14.78	
Av.	: 19.19		16.20	.

1/ Average for all weights at Midwest Markets.



Despite larger marketings of hogs, barrow and gilt prices averaged higher--\$20.30 at 8 markets in the winter--about \$1.35 above January-March 1968. Hog prices advanced nearly \$2 during the winter without the usual late-winter dip. In late March, the 8 market average for barrows and gilts was \$21--about \$2 above a year earlier and, except for 1966, the highest late March price since 1958 when barrows and gilts averaged nearly \$22 per 100 pounds.

Spring Slaughter Supplies Larger

Hog slaughter this spring is expected to continue moderately above second quarter 1968 levels. On March 1, there were 4 percent more market hogs weighing over 120 pounds on farms in 10 Corn Belt States. These hogs will make up the bulk of slaughter supplies through the spring. However, increases in farrowings in States outside the Corn Belt last fall were smaller than those in the 10 States; this may temper the increase in slaughter rates suggested by the 10-State inventory. For example, the December Hogs and Pigs Report indicated that September-November farrowings were up 5 percent in the Corn Belt but down 5 percent in all other States, for a net increase of 2 percent. Thus, the increase in slaughter over a year earlier in the spring may be smaller than during the winter.

During early April, hog prices weakened some and for the month, barrows and gilts at 8 markets averaged near \$20.50 per 100 pounds--50 cents below late March but still \$1.50 higher than a year earlier. Prices are expected to be seasonally strong this spring and continue above a year earlier. Hog slaughter began to taper off seasonally in April. Last year, barrow and gilt prices advanced from \$18.80 in late April to an early July peak of \$22.20. However, due to larger supplies of beef and pork this year, the spring advance may be somewhat less than last year's \$3.40 rise.

Summer Slaughter to Continue Above A Year Earlier

Hog slaughter in July-September is expected to continue moderately above a year earlier. The number of hogs weighing under 120 pounds on March 1 in 10 States was up 4 percent. These hogs will provide the bulk of slaughter supplies in the summer. As in the spring, marketings in the other 40 States may follow a somewhat different pattern which could alter total summer marketings to some extent.

Market hogs and pigs by weight groups, March 1, 1968-69 1/

Weight group	: 1968	: 1969	: 1969 as pct. of 1968
	: 1,000	1,000	
	: <u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Under 60 lbs.	: 11,945	12,480	4
60-119 lbs.	: 7,030	7,289	4
120-179 lbs.	: 8,040	8,276	3
180-219 lbs.	: 4,550	4,733	4
220 lbs. & over	: 956	1,037	8
Total market hogs & pigs	: 32,521	33,815	4

1/ 10 Corn Belt States.

Hog prices will likely average near or above July-September 1968 despite larger pork supplies. Demand for red meat is expected to continue strong in the summer, but beef and broiler output probably will also be up.

Fall and winter slaughter will continue above a year earlier, judging by farmers' intentions to farrow 5-6 percent more sows this spring and summer than in March-August last year. Continued rises in hog prices will depend substantially on continued growth in consumer incomes and a low unemployment rate. If changes in these factors are similar to those of the past several months, hog prices this fall and winter may be near or above late 1968 and early 1969 levels.

There were 4 percent more hogs slaughtered in commercial plants last winter than a year earlier. Average live-weights and dressing yields were about the same. However, pork output was up 5 percent, while lard production was down 2 percent. This situation probably will continue this spring and summer if strong demand and higher prices continue.

Hog-Corn Price Ratio to Continue Favorable

The hog-corn price ratio averaged 17.3 (Chicago basis) in 1968 compared with 15.7 in 1967. With the exception of 1965 and 1966, this was the highest annual ratio on record. In the first quarter this year, it ranged from 17.1 in January to 18.1 in March. This has encouraged continued producer optimism and on March 1 Corn Belt producers reported plans to farrow 5-6 percent more sows this March-August than last spring and summer.

Hog-corn price ratio, Chicago

Month	1967	1968	1969
Jan.	14.1	17.1	17.1
Feb.	14.2	17.7	17.8
Mar.	13.5	16.9	18.1
Apr.	13.1	17.0	17.3
May	16.4	16.4	
June	16.6	18.2	
July	17.9	19.8	
Aug.	17.4	19.3	
Sept.	16.6	19.3	
Oct.	16.6	17.7	
Nov.	16.8	16.3	
Dec.	16.0	16.9	
Av.	15.7	17.3	

Higher hog prices this spring and summer will probably more than offset increases in corn prices and the hog-corn price ratio is expected to continue above last year's spring-summer range. This would encourage producers to maintain production at current levels or perhaps to expand further in 1970. In this event, 1970 would be the fifth consecutive year of increasing hog production. Such an

extended expansion would be unusual. In the past, hog production cycles have run about 4-5 years.

Feed grain production and prices in 1969 will influence the price relationships between hogs and feed, and thus hog production later this year and in 1970. Although it is too early to determine the probable size of the 1969 feed grain crop, if farmers plant intended acreages and yields are average, adjusted for trend, production would be around 172 million tons, 4 million more than last year. With carryover stocks expected to be smaller than last year, the total supply in 1969-70 would be about the same as in the current season. Continued large feed output at little change in prices would encourage continued expansion in hog production in 1970.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

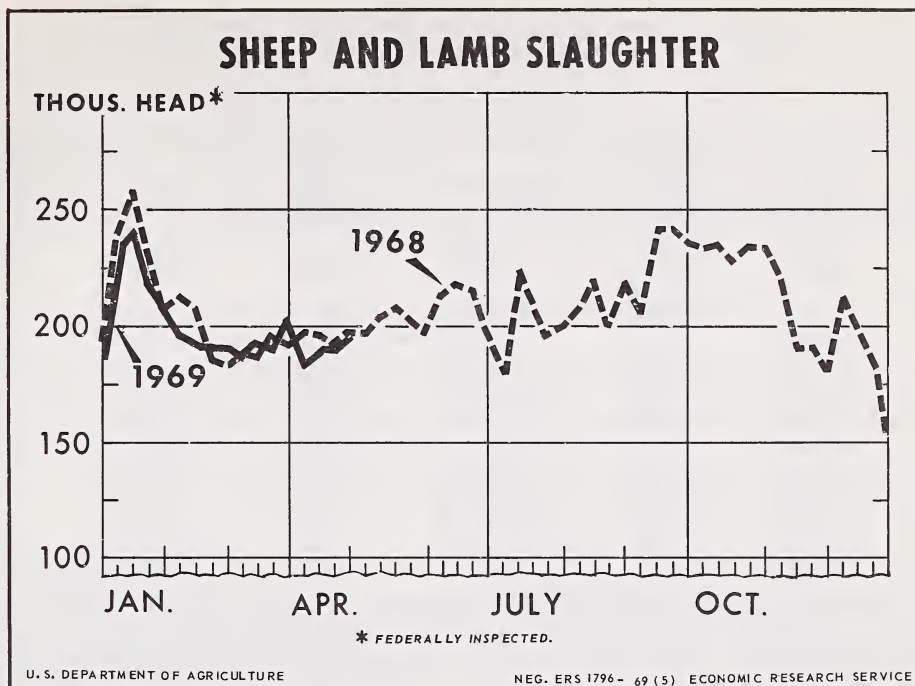
Inventory and Slaughter Down This Year

The year began with 21.1 million sheep and lambs on farms and ranches--about 1 million head, or 5 percent, below January 1, 1968. This decline, however, was less than the preceding year's decline of 1.8 million head.

Continued reduction in the sheep and lamb inventory is expected this year. However, conditions appear to favor a further slowing in the rate of decline. Slaughter has been down sharply so far this year and prices are approaching record levels. Lamb prices are highest since 1951. Also, early spring range conditions are favorable and some additional withholding of ewe lambs may occur.

For the inventory to stabilize this year, slaughter would have to be down 15 percent during April-December. Such a sharp decline is unlikely. Commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs during the first 3 months of this year totaled 2.7 million head, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

Spring slaughter is expected to continue below a year earlier. There were 12



percent fewer lambs on feed in 7 major feeding States on March 1 than on the same date last year. However, there were 14 percent more new-crop lambs on farms January 1 than a year earlier (born October 1, 1968 through December 31). While a relatively large supply of early lambs will tend to increase the slaughter supply in some sections of the country, spring slaughter will likely continue below a year earlier but by perhaps a narrower margin than in the winter.

Lamb prices at San Angelo averaged \$28.30 per 100 pounds in the winter--more than \$3.50 above January-March 1968. In early April, spring lamb prices at San Angelo were about \$31.75. This was about \$2.75 above a year earlier and the highest in several years. Fed shorn lambs were selling at \$28, about \$2 above a year earlier. Last year, Choice grade lamb prices at San Angelo dropped from \$29.50 in mid-April to a low of \$23.50 by early August. Prices are expected to continue well above a year ago this spring and summer but will follow a seasonal pattern similar to 1968.

Lamb prices at San Angelo, 1968-69

Month	Choice lambs		Choice feeder lambs	
	1968	1969	1968	1969
	Dollars per 100 pounds			
Jan.	22.94	26.56	22.35	26.12
Feb.	24.19	28.00	23.75	27.62
Mar.	26.88	30.69	24.81	30.69
Apr.	29.13	31.05	27.50	29.55
May	27.40		24.30	
June	26.13		22.88	
July	25.25		22.90	
Aug.	23.81		22.88	
Sept.	25.38		23.81	
Oct.	25.75		24.30	
Nov.	26.31		24.75	
Dec.	25.33		25.58	
Av.	25.71		24.15	

Sheep and lamb slaughter in the second half of the year will likely continue well below 1968 levels. A smaller

Table 2.--Production, prices and income from wool,
United States, 1959-67

Year	Shorn wool					Pulled wool production
	Number	Weight	Production	Price	Value	
	sheep	per		per		
	shorn 1/ head	fleece Pounds		pound 2/ pounds		
1959	30,763	8.45	259,939	43.3	112,328	34,500
1960	31,081	8.54	265,277	42.0	111,412	33,600
1961	30,454	8.51	259,161	42.9	111,445	34,500
1962	29,193	8.45	246,636	47.7	117,579	29,900
1963	27,264	8.53	232,446	48.5	112,426	28,800
1964	25,455	8.34	212,333	53.2	112,877	25,100
1965	23,756	8.48	201,463	47.1	94,999	23,300
1966	22,923	8.51	195,053	52.1	101,204	24,100
1967	22,022	8.58	188,919	39.8	75,163	22,400
1968 3/	20,726	8.58	177,767	40.5	71,961	20,500

1/ Includes shearing at commercial feeding yards. 2/ For the years 1959 through 1962, the marketing year was April through March. For 1963, the marketing year was April through December. Beginning in 1964 the marketing year is January through December. 3/ Preliminary.

Table 3.--Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1959-67 1/

Year	Number	Average	Production	Price	Value
	goats	clip per	of	per	
	clipped <u>2/</u>	goat	mohair	pound <u>3/</u>	
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	
1959	3,755	6.4	24,151	96.5	23,301
1960	3,888	6.3	24,467	89.7	21,937
1961	4,021	6.6	26,411	85.6	22,615
1962	4,236	6.4	27,215	71.4	19,430
1963	4,363	6.6	29,007	88.1	25,562
1964	4,568	6.5	29,736	94.3	28,053
1965	4,803	6.7	32,420	65.5	21,251
1966	4,659	6.3	29,576	53.7	15,896
1967	4,113	6.6	27,127	40.9	11,100
1968 <u>4/</u>	3,965	6.6	26,022	45.2	11,754

1/ States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

3/ For the years 1959 through 1962, the marketing year was April through March. For 1963, the marketing year was April through December. Beginning in 1964 marketing year is January through December.

4/ Preliminary.

lamb crop, together with relatively high prices, will probably result in a 5 to 10 percent decline in slaughter during July-December. Producers in some areas may be inclined to hold back more ewe lambs this year than in other recent years to add to the breeding herd because of the higher price level for lambs. This would further reduce slaughter supplies in the second half.

A smaller supply of lamb and a strong demand for red meats will continue to yield a favorable price situation for lamb producers. However, while the slaughter supply is expected to continue below a year ago, it will rise seasonally during the balance of the spring and into early fall.

1968 Wool Production Down; Prices Slightly Higher

Shorn wool production in 1968 totaled 178 million pounds (grease basis)--down 6 percent from 1967. Pulled wool output totaled nearly 21 million pounds--down 8 percent. Wool production likely will decline further in 1969 because there were fewer sheep and lambs on hand at the beginning of the year.

Wool prices were only slightly higher than the relatively lower levels in 1967. The average farm price for shorn wool in 1968 was 40.5 cents per pound--less than 1 cent a pound higher than in 1967. Reduced production and little change in the market price resulted in a \$3 million drop in the value of the 1968 clip. The Federal incentive payment to producers under the National Wool Act was 65.4 percent of returns from the sale of wool in 1968. This was only slightly lower than the 65.8 percent rate in 1967. The 1968 average price of 40.5 cents per pound received was supplemented by an average Federal payment of 24.9 cents per pound.

Mohair production in 7 leading States (Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon, California, and Utah) totaled 26.0 million pounds in 1968--4 percent less than a year earlier and 20 percent below the 1965 output.

The average price received by farmers and ranchers in 1968 was 45.2 cents, compared with 40.9 cents in 1967. Although output was down, the higher price resulted in a 6 percent increase in the total value of the 1968 clip to \$11.8 million. This was further supplemented by a Federal payment of an average of 32.2 cents per pound for the 1968 clip.

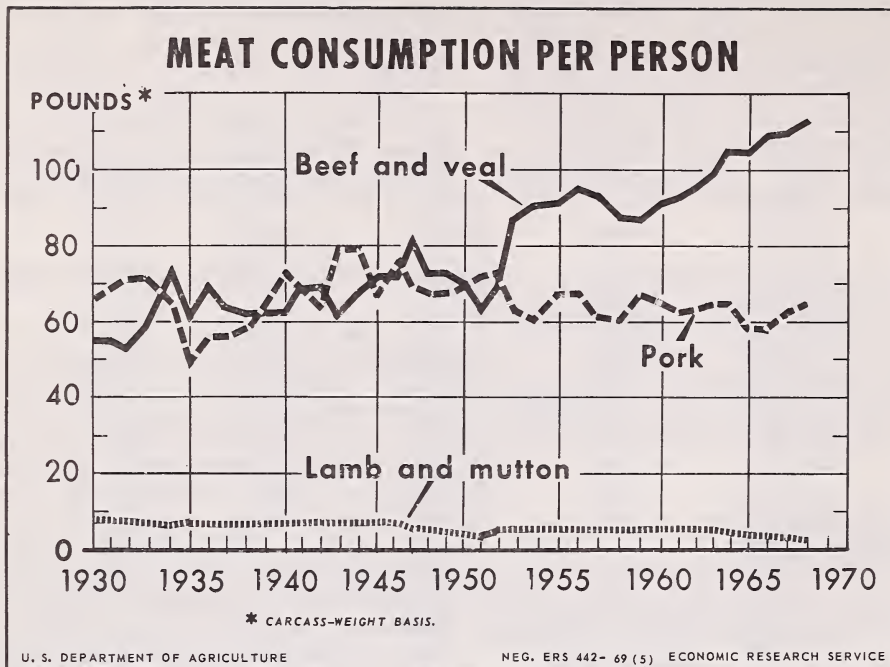
MEAT CONSUMPTION AND RETAIL PRICES

Retail prices of red meats continued to rise during the winter, even though production was nearly 3 percent larger than a year ago, reflecting unusually strong consumer demand for meat. Also, red meat consumption averaged a little more than 45 pounds per person in the first quarter, slightly larger than a year earlier. The increase in population partially offset larger production. January-March consumption of pork was up about 3 to 4 percent from a year earlier, beef consumption was slightly larger, but lamb and veal consumption was smaller.

Meat consumption per person

Item	: 1966	: 1967	: 1968
	: Pounds	: per person	
Beef	: 104.0	105.9	109.4
Veal	: 4.5	3.8	3.6
Pork	: 58.0	63.9	66.0
Lamb and mutton	: 4.0	3.9	3.7
Total meat	: 170.5	177.5	182.7

Consumption of red meat this spring is expected to be a little larger than in April-June 1968. Beef and pork likely will account for all of the increase. In the summer, per capita consumption of red meat likely will be about the same as a year earlier. Retail meat prices likely will continue above a year earlier during this period, reflecting further increases in prospect for consumer incomes and marketing costs.



Beef consumption per person is expected to be about 3 percent larger than in April-June 1968. Fed cattle slaughter likely will be considerably larger and beef imports likely will be up, but nonfed cattle slaughter is expected to be down. Beef consumption in the summer likely will not be much different from a year earlier. However, even with large supplies, retail beef prices are expected to run moderately higher than a year earlier through summer.

Veal consumption is expected to remain reduced during the spring and summer, reflecting the decline in dairy cows and the generally favorable feeder cattle prices. Shorter supplies and strong demand will mean higher veal prices. Retail veal prices were up 8 percent in 1968; another increase is developing this year.

Pork consumption is rising for the third consecutive year. Increases in consumption likely will continue throughout the year. Retail pork prices in recent months have been running about 3 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices probably will continue higher through the

fall, but late this year increases over 1968 levels may be small. Prices likely will rise seasonally in the spring and summer but drop next fall when the seasonally large supplies will be swelled by slaughter from the 4 to 5 percent larger spring pig crop.

Lamb and mutton consumption is continuing to drift lower and will decline further this year. The 1969 lamb crop is expected to be down 4 to 5 percent. Lamb and mutton consumption last winter was considerably smaller than a year earlier. Retail lamb prices are record high, and little change is expected during spring and summer.

FOREIGN TRADE IN MEATS

Meat production in the United States was record large in 1968. Nevertheless, meat prices were above average, fostering a favorable market in the United States for more meat from exporting countries. Imports increased from 1,841 million pounds

(carcass weight equivalent) in 1967 to 2,081 million pounds in 1968, equal to 5.9 percent of U.S. production. The increase in imports accounted for about a fifth of the increase in meat supplies in 1968, and domestic production for four-fifths.

U.S. meat exports typically are small because of generally higher wholesale meat prices in the United States. Exports in 1968 were equal to about 0.4 percent of U.S. production. However, there are large markets abroad for byproducts of the meatpacking industry. The United States is a leading exporter of tallow, greases, and lard; hides and skins; and variety meats. In 1968, the export value of tallow, greases, and lard was nearly \$149 million, more than twice the \$62 million value of meat exports. The export value of hides and skins was \$118 million, and variety meats was \$55 million.

The value of U.S. imports of meat animals, meat, and meat products in 1968 was \$1.067 billion, up from \$899 million in 1967. The value of U.S. exports of these commodities was \$419 million, compared with \$446 million in 1967. The volume of exports of most byproducts in 1968 was larger, but prices were lower, reducing the total value.

Imports of All Major Classes of Meat Larger in 1968

Meat imports totaled 1,537 million pounds (product weight) in 1968. On a carcass weight equivalent basis, this was equal to 2,081 million pounds, 13 percent more than in 1967. Imports of beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton (and goat) all were larger, but the bulk of the increase was due to larger imports of beef.

The increase in beef imports mainly reflected larger imports of fresh or frozen boneless beef, from 1,116 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1967 to 1,225 million pounds in 1968.

Boneless beef is by far the largest red meat import item. In 1968, boneless beef imports were 82 percent of total beef

imports, and 59 percent of total red meat imports. Boneless beef imports are similar to and supplement the declining supply of U.S. produced cow beef. Both are used mainly in hamburger and processed meat products. Australia and New Zealand are the principal suppliers.

Imports of carcass beef and bone-in cuts are very small compared with boneless beef imports and in 1968 totaled 26.8 million pounds, up from 11.7 million in 1967.

Canned beef imports (mostly corned beef from Argentina) totaled 165 million pounds, up from 137 million pounds the year before.

In total, beef imports in 1968 were 1,500 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent), up from 1,314 million pounds in 1967. Beef imports in 1968 were the largest since 1963 when they totaled 1,651 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent).

Veal imports rose to 18.3 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1968 from 14.2 million pounds in 1967. Beef and veal imports together were equivalent to 7 percent of U.S. beef and veal production in 1968, the largest proportion since 1963.

Pork imports totaled 416 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) in 1968, up from 392 million pounds in 1967. Imports of canned hams and shoulders accounted for almost all of the increase, rising to 306 million pounds (carcass weight equivalent) from 285 million pounds in 1967. Canned hams and shoulders accounted for 74 percent of total pork imports. Imports are chiefly from Denmark, the Netherlands, and Poland, in that order. Pork imports in 1968 were equal to 3.2 percent of U.S. production, about the same as in other recent years.

Imports of both lamb and mutton (including goat) were larger in 1968 than in 1967. Lamb imports of 22.9 million pounds were up from 12.3 million pounds in 1967. Mutton imports at 124 million pounds were almost six times as large as lamb imports and were up from 109 million pounds in 1967. Lamb imports were equal

to 4.1 percent of U.S. estimated production of lamb and yearling; mutton imports were more than three times as large as U.S. estimated mutton production. Mutton production in the United States is very small; in recent years sheep have accounted for only a little over 6 percent of the total number of sheep and lamb slaughtered under Federal inspection. Imports of lamb and mutton combined were equal to 24.4 percent of U.S. lamb, yearling, and mutton production in 1968.

Live Animal Imports

Imports of dutiable cattle (those not for breeding) totaled 1,024,235 head in 1968, up 38 percent from the 740,448 head imported in 1967. Most of the live cattle imports were feeder cattle and calves. There were only 74,292 dutiable cattle weighing 700 pounds and over imported in 1968. Of these, 15,783 were dairy cows. In addition, there were 14,915 head of breeding cattle imported in 1968. Virtually all live cattle imports come from Mexico and Canada.

There were 21,678 head of hogs imported in 1968, down from 34,926 head in 1967. Imports of sheep and lambs were 26,579 head, up from 12,403 head in 1967.

Meat Subject to Import Quota Restriction

Imports of meat subject to restriction by quota totaled 1,000.4 million pounds (product weight) in 1968. This was almost 12 percent more than in 1967.

Public Law 88-482, enacted in August 1964, outlines procedures for reviewing the meat import situation and specifies conditions for proclaiming import quotas for certain meats--primarily

fresh or frozen beef and veal. The import quota level is related to the level of domestic production of these meats. The law provides that if estimated imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen cattle meat and meat of goats and sheep other than lamb equal or exceed 110 percent of the adjusted base quota for that year, the President is required to invoke a quota on imports of these meats. The adjusted base quota for 1969 is 988.0 million pounds (product weight). The amount of estimated imports which would trigger its imposition is 110 percent of the adjusted base quota, or 1,086.8 million pounds.

The adjusted base quota for a year is derived from adjusting the base of 725.4 million pounds specified in the law (approximately the 1959-63 average annual imports of these meats) by the percentage increase or decrease since 1959-63 in domestic commercial production of these meats. The law defines the level of domestic production as a 3-year average--an average of the estimated commercial production for the year in which the quota may be applied and commercial production in the 2 preceding years. Average annual production for 1967-69 was estimated at 21.4 billion pounds, an increase of 36.2 percent over the 1959-63 base period. This required for 1969 an increase in the adjusted base quota level to 988.0 million pounds.

In compliance with the law, the Secretary of Agriculture estimates annual imports and makes quarterly reports to the President on the meat import situation to advise him of any changes that may develop during the year. The second quarterly estimate of 1969 meat imports subject to restriction by quota was 1,035 million pounds.

:	:
:	:
:	The next issue of the <u>Livestock and Meat Situation</u>
:	is scheduled to be available August 8, 1969.
:	:
:	:
:	The summary is scheduled to be released to the press
:	immediately after the Outlook and Situation Board meeting
:	August 4, 1969.
:	:

Table 4.--Meat animals, meat and meat products: Value of United States imports and exports, 1966-68

Commodity	Imports for consumption						Exports		
	1966			1967			1968 1/		
	Mil. dol.			Mil. dol.			Mil. dol.		Mil. dol.
Live animals:									
Cattle and calves	103.9		64.1	97.4		14.3	21.2		15.2
Hogs	.7		.9	1.0		.7	1.0		1.0
Sheep and lambs	.2		.2	.5		.9	1.6		1.1
Meat:									
Beef and veal	353.9		403.9	485.5		17.8	20.2		19.9
Pork	201.6		203.3	216.1		20.6	17.8		31.6
Lamb, mutton and goat	21.4		18.0	23.5		1.0	1.0		1.2
Processed meats 2/	3.1		3.4	4.2		8.2	8.7		9.2
Tallow, greases, and lard	.7		.8	.8		187.5	175.9		148.6
Variety meats	1.1		1.2	1.1		58.5	57.1		55.0
Casings	21.6		19.7	20.8		9.4	6.9		7.3
Hides and skins	83.2		53.9	70.6		154.7	127.4		118.1
Wool and mohair	219.0		129.6	145.3		8.6	7.2		10.8
Total	1,010.4		899.0	1,066.8		482.2	446.0		419.0

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Imports are other sausage. Exports include sausage, canned meats, and canned specialties.

Table 5.--U.S. imports of livestock products, 1963-68

Item	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Meat (carcass weight equivalent)						
Beef						
Boneless, fresh or frozen	1,362.8	919.2	734.3	986.7	1,116.0	1,224.7
Fresh or frozen	19.9	17.2	29.3	20.7	11.7	26.8
Total fresh or frozen	1,382.7	936.4	763.6	1,007.4	1,127.7	1,251.5
Canned	221.2	110.2	126.8	126.6	136.7	165.2
Pickled or cured	.7	.4	.4	.6	1.8	1.3
Other processed	46.5	20.7	32.2	47.6	47.3	81.7
Total	1,651.1	1,067.7	923.0	1,182.2	1,313.5	1,499.7
Veal						
Fresh or frozen	26.4	17.5	18.8	22.0	14.2	18.3
Pork						
Fresh or frozen	37.0	39.2	47.9	42.0	47.4	48.4
Hams and shoulders, not cooked	7.4	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.4
Hams and shoulders canned	165.2	189.7	236.7	267.6	284.6	306.5
Other	15.4	36.8	46.5	69.9	58.6	58.8
Total	225.0	267.4	333.0	381.3	392.5	416.1
Lamb	18.9	10.4	12.5	14.9	12.3	22.9
Mutton and Goat	125.8	68.6	60.0	121.1	108.6	124.0
Total red meat	2,047.2	1,431.6	1,347.3	1,721.5	1,841.1	2,081.0
Variety Meats (product weight)	3.5	1.2	2.2	3.3	3.5	3.8
Wool (clean basis)						
Dutiable	109.2	98.4	162.7	162.5	109.1	129.8
Duty-free	168.0	113.9	108.9	114.6	78.2	119.6
Total wool	277.2	212.3	271.6	277.2	187.3	249.4
	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces
Hides and Skins						
Cattle	424	315	302	221	233	494
Calf	875	926	458	242	481	508
Kip	1,037	1,084	607	438	357	286
Sheep and lamb	26,310	29,621	29,821	27,893	20,300	30,822
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Cattle 2/	833,716	528,872	1,110,631	1,081,474	740,448	1,024,235
Hogs 3/	4,323	5,094	14,453	22,698	34,926	21,678
Sheep and Lambs	3,091	12,680	19,073	8,310	12,403	26,579

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Dutiable; not for breeding. 3/ For years 1963-66 imports reported in pounds; pounds converted to 200-pound hog equivalent. Beginning 1967 reported in numbers.

Table 6.--U.S. exports of livestock products, 1963-68

Commodity	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
	1/					
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Meat (carcass weight equivalent)						
Beef						
Fresh or frozen	7.9	31.8	32.4	17.5	17.1	15.2
Canned	2.1	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.2
Pickled or cured	19.4	22.8	11.8	12.8	15.9	13.3
Other processed	2.2	3.8	5.5	4.9	5.2	6.3
Total	31.6	61.0	52.1	38.2	41.0	37.0
Veal						
Fresh or frozen	.9	3.5	1.3	.5	.7	.5
Total (includes canned)	1.0	3.8	1.8	.9	1.2	1.2
Pork						
Fresh or frozen	105.7	96.2	17.1	17.1	19.2	47.9
Hams and shoulders, not cooked	7.4	10.1	10.5	13.6	12.4	15.5
Hams and shoulders, canned	1.1	1.9	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.0
Other canned	1.7	2.2	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.8
Other	25.8	27.9	21.1	21.3	19.7	23.1
Total	141.7	138.3	55.3	58.4	57.9	93.3
Lamb and mutton	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.3	2.6	2.8
Total red meat	175.8	205.0	111.2	99.8	102.7	134.3
Variety Meats (product weight)	157.9	229.4	223.1	213.3	222.3	225.6
Animal Fats						
Lard	537.7	682.0	250.9	157.6	188.6	172.1
Inedible tallow and grease 2/	1,871.5	2,399.0	2,111.0	1,972.0	2,220.7	2,236.6
Edible tallow and greases 3/	10.5	12.8	17.0	16.4	17.1	11.2
Mohair (Clean content)	14.2	2.7	8.5	10.7	10.3	15.9
	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces
Hides and Skins						
Cattle	7,971	11,502	13,309	14,307	4/11,817	4/12,836
Calf	1,604	2,111	1,985	2,066	1,906	1,838
Kip	253	280	474	516	477	379
Sheep and lamb	2,881	3,065	2,876	2,422	3,758	3,946
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Cattle	23,155	61,631	54,171	35,317	55,322	35,725
Hogs	3,899	16,567	12,180	9,649	12,932	13,714
Sheep, Lambs, and Goats 5/	31,493	22,809	25,315	59,054	120,733	117,677

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Includes inedible animal oils, greases, fats, and tallow.

3/ Includes oleo oil and oleo stearin, oleo stock, and edible tallow.

4/ Excludes pieces that are reported in pounds, which were reported in pieces in previous years.

5/ Sheep only for 1963-64. Sheep, lambs, and goats for 1965 forward.

Table 8.--Meat exports: United States exports and shipments by countries, 1965 to date

Product and year	Exports, by destination, product weight										Shipments to territories		Total exports and shipments	
	Canada:	Mexico:	France:	Bahamas:	West Germany:	Jamaica:	Japan:	Netherlands:	Venezuela:	All other:	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Beef and veal:														
1965.....	9.9	.2	1.3	3.0	.3	1.3	.1	.8	.1	26.8	43.8	27.6	71.4	97
1966.....	13.1	.2	.5	4.0	.2	1.0	.1	.3	2/	9.4	28.8	32.2	61.0	87
1967.....	17.5	.2	.3	5.8	.1	1.2	.4	.2	2/	5.6	31.3	36.4	67.6	94
1968 4/.....	11.9	.4	.4	7.1	.1	1.1	.4	.1	2/	5.5	27.0	37.5	64.5	94
Lamb and mutton:														
1965.....	.3	2/	2/	.4	---	2/	2/	---	2/	.5	1.2	1.0	2.2	4
1966.....	.6	2/	2/	.4	---	2/	---	---	2/	.6	1.6	1.1	2.7	5
1967.....	.2	.1	2/	.5	---	2/	---	---	2/	1.0	1.8	1.7	3.5	6
1968 4/.....	.3	2/	2/	.7	---	2/	2/	---	2/	.9	1.9	1.9	3.8	7
Pork:														
1965.....	27.1	2.0	2/	2.5	.2	2.9	.3	.2	3.2	9.3	47.7	61.1	108.8	130
1966.....	28.4	2.2	2.4	2.6	.3	2.6	.1	.3	3.3	8.7	50.9	67.2	118.1	140
1967.....	27.3	1.9	.3	3.5	.2	2.9	.6	.2	2.9	10.8	50.6	74.4	125.0	146
1968 4/.....	36.4	2.9	.2	4.0	.1	3.2	25.1	.2	1.6	11.4	85.1	78.7	163.8	187
Total: 3/	39.7	3.1	1.5	6.8	1.5	5.0	.8	1.2	3.4	45.4	108.4	118.7	227.1	231
1965.....	44.2	2.8	3.2	7.6	.9	4.4	.6	.8	3.3	28.8	96.6	130.9	227.5	232
1966.....	47.8	2.7	.8	11.6	.6	5.0	1.4	.5	3.0	26.6	100.0	142.6	242.6	246
1968 4/.....	50.9	4.2	.8	13.7	.5	5.0	26.1	.4	1.6	27.8	131.0	153.6	284.6	288

1/ Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands and Guam. Starting 1965 includes Wake. 2/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 3/ Including sausage, bologna and frankfurters canned and not canned, sausage ingredients, meat and meat products n.e.c. 4/ Preliminary.

Source: Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

Table 9.--U.S. imports, exports, and net imports of beef and veal, pork, lamb and mutton, and total meat in relation to domestic production 1962-68 1/

Beef and veal							
Year	Production	Imports	Exports	Net imports	Percentage of U.S. production		
					Imports	Exports	Net imports
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1962	16,313	1,439.8	32.0	1,407.8	8.8	.2	8.6
1963	17,357	1,677.5	32.6	1,644.9	9.7	.2	9.5
1964	19,442	1,085.2	64.8	1,020.4	5.6	.3	5.2
1965	19,719	941.8	53.9	887.9	4.8	.3	4.5
1966	20,604	1,204.2	39.1	1,165.1	5.8	.2	5.7
1967	20,977	1,327.7	42.2	1,285.5	6.3	.2	6.1
1968 <u>2/</u>	21,577	1,517.9	38.2	1,479.7	7.0	.2	6.9
Pork							
1962	11,819	215.8	66.9	149.0	1.8	.6	1.3
1963	12,419	225.0	141.7	83.3	1.8	1.1	.7
1964	12,503	267.4	138.3	129.1	2.1	1.1	1.0
1965	11,132	333.0	55.3	277.7	3.0	.5	2.5
1966	11,328	381.3	58.4	322.9	3.4	.5	2.9
1967	12,572	392.5	57.9	334.6	3.1	.5	2.7
1968 <u>2/</u>	13,055	416.1	93.3	322.8	3.2	.7	2.5
Lamb and mutton							
1962	808	143.2	2.6	140.6	17.7	.3	17.4
1963	770	144.7	1.5	143.2	18.8	.2	18.6
1964	715	79.0	1.9	77.1	11.0	.3	10.8
1965	651	72.5	2.0	70.5	11.1	.3	10.8
1966	650	136.0	2.3	133.7	20.9	.4	20.6
1967	646	120.9	2.6	118.3	18.7	.4	18.3
1968 <u>2/</u>	602	146.7	2.8	143.9	24.4	.5	23.9
Total meat							
1962	28,940	1,798.8	101.5	1,697.3	6.2	.4	5.9
1963	30,546	2,047.2	175.8	1,871.4	6.7	.6	6.1
1964	32,660	1,431.6	205.0	1,226.6	4.4	.6	3.8
1965	31,502	1,347.3	111.2	1,236.1	4.3	.4	3.9
1966	32,582	1,721.5	99.8	1,621.7	5.3	.3	5.0
1967	34,195	1,841.1	102.7	1,738.4	5.4	.3	5.1
1968 <u>2/</u>	35,234	2,080.7	134.3	1,946.4	5.9	.4	5.5

1/ Carcass weight equivalent.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 10.--U.S. Imports of cattle from specified countries, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, 1960-68

Year	700 pounds and over				Under 200 pounds			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
1960	60,865	19,631	0	80,496	32,079	1,773	0	33,852
1961	88,660	36,410	0	125,070	28,605	8,655	0	37,260
1962	72,205	36,732	0	108,937	41,315	24,925	0	66,240
1963	51,018	18,123	22	69,163	36,618	27,120	1	63,739
1964	45,880	1,777	0	47,657	50,714	13,162	0	63,876
1965	136,549	14,054	0	150,603	64,070	16,921	0	80,991
1966	90,872	14,505	3	105,380	104,196	22,293	5	126,494
1967	17,958	3,936	26	21,920	87,184	10,553	1	97,738
1968 1/	57,145	1,344	20	58,509	134,344	13,052	0	147,396
<hr/>								
	200 to 699 pounds				Total			
	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total	Canada	Mexico	Other	Total
	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head	Head
1960	140,471	369,113	0	509,584	233,415	390,517	0	623,932
1961	337,452	497,999	0	835,451	454,717	543,064	0	997,781
1962	351,336	690,228	0	1,041,564	464,856	751,885	0	1,216,741
1963	148,486	540,099	353	688,938	236,122	585,342	376	821,840
1964	86,713	315,962	700	403,375	183,307	330,901	700	514,908
1965	359,486	504,285	0	863,771	560,105	535,260	0	1,095,365
1966	280,522	547,287	319	828,128	475,587	584,085	327	1,060,002
1967	121,900	485,929	13	607,842	227,042	500,418	40	727,500
1968 1/	114,628	687,912	7	802,547	306,117	702,308	27	1,008,452

^{1/} Preliminary

Table 11.--Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-69

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1959-63 average	47.3	49.6	57.5	54.3	48.5	58.6	67.1	84.1	76.1	61.6	56.1	61.4	722.2
1964	87.2	44.9	68.9	61.4	51.1	98.1	43.7	79.5	49.6	46.4	55.7	53.4	739.9
1965	28.2	34.5	68.7	32.4	52.3	42.1	58.5	59.9	62.2	64.4	57.3	53.7	614.2
1966	51.4	60.3	49.4	63.3	52.0	100.2	61.4	87.1	91.5	79.7	61.1	66.0	823.4
1967	77.4	58.5	61.9	58.8	51.5	69.6	88.7	92.2	89.8	91.8	82.3	72.4	894.9
1968	80.7	72.6	64.1	78.3	56.1	105.0	86.0	108.6	115.5	102.1	95.8	35.6	1,000.4
1969	41.9	50.4	136.1										

Table 12.--U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1968 and 1969

Month	Imports											
	Beef and veal			Lamb, Mutton and goat			Pork			Total meat		
	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.
January	119.6	70.1	-41	13.0	1.1	-91	34.8	12.5	-64	167.4	83.7	-50
February	107.0	80.1	-25	14.4	5.5	-61	34.7	27.8	-20	156.1	113.4	-27
March	93.0	191.0	+105	14.7	20.5	+40	37.2	50.7	+36	144.9	262.2	+81
April	114.0			13.1			35.2			162.3		
May	95.1			8.7			36.5			140.3		
June	142.9			21.8			36.8			201.5		
July	139.3			10.0			35.3			184.6		
August	153.3			13.1			30.3			196.7		
September	175.2			12.4			38.5			226.1		
October	151.7			10.3			30.4			192.4		
November	147.5			11.9			33.3			192.7		
December	79.4			3.5			33.1			116.0		
Total	1518.0			146.9			416.1			2,081.0		
	Exports											
	Beef and veal			Lamb and mutton			Pork			Total meat		
	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change	1968	1969	Change
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Pct.
January	3.5	2.8	-20	0.2	0.2	0	3.7	14.0	+281	7.4	17.0	+130
February	3.2	2.8	-13	.2	.3	+55	3.4	16.1	+376	6.8	19.2	+182
March	3.1	3.9	+23	.2	.3	+65	3.2	11.7	+262	6.5	15.9	+142
April	2.9			.3			3.2			6.4		
May	3.4			.2			2.7			6.3		
June	2.8			.3			3.1			6.2		
July	3.0			.1			4.7			7.8		
August	3.3			.2			11.2			14.7		
September	3.0			.2			11.3			14.5		
October	3.0			.2			13.9			17.1		
November	3.8			.5			18.3			22.6		
December	2.2			.2			14.6			18.0		
Total	38.2			2.8			93.3			134.3		

REGIONAL TRENDS IN CALF PRODUCTION AND SLAUGHTER

By

Donald Seaborg

Agricultural Economist, Economic Research Service

The upsurge in beef production of recent years has been accompanied by increases in numbers of beef calves. At the same time, decreases in dairy calf numbers have paralleled reductions in dairy herds. Partly as a result of these developments, there has been some shifting in relative importance of various regions in the production of calves. Also, cattle feeding operations have expanded and a larger part of the calf crop is fed to maturity. Accordingly, the volume of calf slaughter has declined, resulting in some additional shifting in regional veal production.

Last year, the calf crop rose to more than 44 million head, compared with 39 million in 1960 and 35 million in 1950. Increases in the calf crop during the past few years, however, have been relatively small because growth in beef herds has slowed while dairy herds have continued to decline.

Calf Crop: U.S. and estimated
beef and dairy ^{1/}

Year	U.S.	Dairy	Beef
	<u>Million head</u>		
1950	34.9	20.6	14.3
1955	42.1	20.2	21.9
1960	39.3	16.8	22.4
1965	43.9	14.6	29.3
1966	43.4	13.8	29.7
1967	43.7	13.3	30.4
1968	44.1	12.9	31.2

^{1/} Beef and dairy calf crop estimated on basis of beef and dairy cows on farms.

Calf Production

Regional location of calf production has been affected by shifts toward beef and away from dairy cattle. Areas specializing in milk production have been declining in relative importance as calf

producers; areas that produce mostly beef calves have been accounting for a larger share of the total. The East North Central States accounted for 17 percent of the calf crop in 1950. Last year, they produced less than 12 percent. The North Atlantic States have also dropped in importance since 1950. The sharpest gains in share of the U.S. calf crop have been in the South Central and the Mountain States.

Estimates of the dairy calf crop and the beef calf crop can be made by using the relationship between the number of beef cows and dairy cows as a guide. Such estimates show that the dairy calf crop has declined in all regions since 1954. In 1950, about 59 percent of the calf crop was dairy calves. However, with a steadily declining dairy herd and an increasing beef herd, dairy calves in 1968 accounted for only 29 percent of the calf crop. The fastest declines during 1950-68 occurred in the West North Central and the South Central Regions.

The North Atlantic States, while accounting for a smaller proportion of all calves born, produced about 18 percent of all dairy calves in 1968 compared with about 13 percent in 1950. This is an indication of the concentration around large population centers. Total milk production has been holding about steady in recent years. Dairy cow numbers have declined, but milk output per cow has gone up.

The beef calf crop has more than doubled in the past two decades, with all areas of the country sharing in the increase. In 1968, the South Central States produced more than 11 million beef calves, about 36 percent of the total beef calf crop. This compares with 34 percent of the total for these States in 1950. The West North Central States produced 29 percent of the total last year, only a slightly larger share than in 1950. The Mountain States accounted for about 21 percent of the beef calf crop in 1950, but only 16

percent last year; beef calf output there has increased at a slower rate than in other areas.

Calf Slaughter

Calf slaughter has been declining in recent years because of the decline in dairy calves and the increasing number of calves being placed on feed. Figure 1 shows that reductions in calf slaughter since 1954 have roughly paralleled reductions in the dairy calf crop.

In 1950, commercial calf slaughter was equal to about 29 percent of the total calf crop. However, last year calf slaughter was equivalent to about 12 percent of the calf crop.

Commercial calf slaughter as a percent of calf crop

Region and U.S.	:	1950	:	1960	:	1968
	:		:		:	
	:	Pct.	:	Pct.	:	Pct.
N. Atlantic	:	92.0	:	81.4	:	81.3
E.N. Central	:	47.3	:	39.0	:	20.7
W.N. Central	:	16.0	:	8.2	:	4.4
S. Atlantic	:	26.2	:	22.2	:	18.9
S. Central	:	19.8	:	15.1	:	7.0
Mountain	:	3.0	:	1.3	:	0.3
Pacific	:	29.9	:	20.6	:	10.2
U.S.	:	28.6	:	20.9	:	12.3

Dairy calves probably make up the bulk of veal calves. However, in some areas of the South sizable numbers of beef calves are slaughtered for baby beef.

Calf slaughter has been equivalent to about half of the estimated dairy calf crop since 1950. This relationship has shown considerable year-to-year variation, but no significant trend is apparent--the dairy calf crop and total calf slaughter are making similar declines. With further

reductions in the number of dairy cows on farms likely during the next few years, calf slaughter also is expected to continue to decline. In addition, prospects for generally above average feeder cattle prices likely will discourage any increase in sales of beef calves for slaughter.

As might be expected, regions with larger dairy cattle numbers slaughter the most calves. The North Atlantic States accounted for 37 percent of all calves slaughtered in commercial plants in 1968, while the East North Central Region accounted for 19 percent. Together, these two regions produced 44 percent of the dairy calf crop last year, but only 6 percent of the beef calf crop. The Mountain States, with very few dairy cattle, contributed only 0.3 percent of all calves slaughtered in 1968 while producing 12 percent of all calves born.

Livestock producers in the South Atlantic States sent about the same number of calves to slaughter in 1968 as in the early 1950's. All other regions showed declines from 1950 to 1968. This reflects the concentration of dairy cattle in the Northeastern part of the United States and a substantial growth in the total calf crop in the South Atlantic Region.

Calf slaughter in commercially operated plants in 1968 in all regions accounted for a smaller proportion of the calf crop than in 1950. Calf slaughter in the North Atlantic States was equal to about 81 percent of the region's calf crop last year, compared with 92 percent in 1950. The West North Central, South Central, Mountain, and the Pacific States in 1968 all contributed relatively small numbers of slaughter calves.

Market Weights

Live weights of calves slaughtered in commercial plants are lightest in the Northeastern part of the United States, and in 1968 they were well below the national average of 229 pounds per head.

Average liveweight of commercially
slaughtered calves

Region and U.S.	:	:	:
	:	1950	1960
	:	:	1968
	:	:	:
	:	Pounds per head	
	:		
N. Atlantic	:	134	127
E.N. Central	:	159	147
W.N. Central	:	217	236
S. Atlantic	:	216	256
S. Central	:	363	440
Mountain	:	318	356
Pacific	:	218	215
	:		331
U.S.	:	206	222
	:		229

This reflects the larger number of veal calves marketed out of dairy herds in this region. In the South Central and the Mountain regions, live weights last year averaged above 400 pounds per head. More of these calves are beef calves and reflect different production practices. For example, while the dairyman will send a bull calf from his herd to market as soon as feasible, the rancher with a cow-calf operation will wait until weaning time, usually in the fall, to make calf marketing decisions.

There has been a general tendency for calf slaughter weights to increase since 1950. The increase in weight is more pronounced in regions where slaughter of baby beef calves has become more significant.

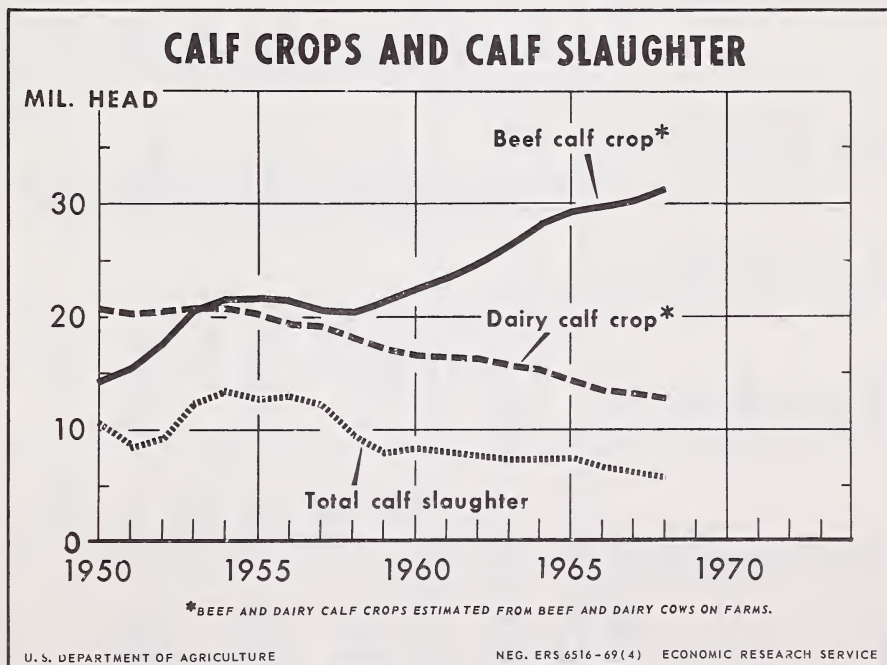


Figure 1

Calf Crop: By region, total and estimates of dairy and beef calves, selected years 1/

Region and U.S.	1950			1960			1968		
	Total	Dairy	Beef	Total	Dairy	Beef	Total	Dairy	Beef
North Atlantic	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
E.N. Central	2,800	2,750	50	2,820	2,690	130	2,450	2,290	160
W.N. Central	6,010	5,380	630	5,730	4,410	1,320	5,110	3,450	1,660
South Atlantic	9,160	5,090	4,070	10,280	3,940	6,340	11,940	2,850	9,090
South Central	2,400	1,600	800	2,970	1,320	1,650	3,340	980	2,360
Mountain	8,860	3,950	4,910	10,540	2,700	7,840	13,050	1,820	11,230
Pacific	3,680	710	2,970	4,330	620	3,710	5,380	490	4,890
	1,990	1,100	890	2,610	1,160	1,450	2,860	1,040	1,820
U.S.	34,900	20,580	14,320	39,280	16,840	22,440	44,130	12,920	31,210

1/ See table below.

Commercial calf slaughter, by region, selected years 1/

Year	U.S.		North Atlantic		E.N. Central		W.N. Central		South Atlantic		South Central		Mountain		Pacific	
	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy	Total	Dairy
1950	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Percent of U.S.	9,973	2,573	25.8	2,848	28.6	1,462	14.6	629	6.3	915	7.4	1,757	17.6	594	5.9	6.0
1955	12,377	2,791	22.5	3,626	29.3	1,649	13.3	741	7.4	2,397	19.4	1,416	11.2	853	6.9	6.9
Percent of U.S.	8,225	2,298	27.9	2,236	27.2	844	10.3	658	8.0	1,595	19.4	1,416	19.1	537	5.3	6.5
1960	7,420	2,307	31.1	1,685	22.7	806	10.9	741	10.0	1,416	19.1	1,416	19.1	439	4.3	5.9
Percent of U.S.	5,443	1,992	36.6	1,058	19.4	531	9.8	634	11.7	920	16.9	920	16.9	291	2.9	5.3
1968	5,443	1,992	36.6	1,058	19.4	531	9.8	634	11.7	920	16.9	920	16.9	291	2.9	5.3
Percent of U.S.	5,443	1,992	36.6	1,058	19.4	531	9.8	634	11.7	920	16.9	920	16.9	291	2.9	5.3

1/ The 48 States are grouped into the following regions: North Atlantic--Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania; E.N. Central--Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin; W.N. Central--North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas; South Atlantic--Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida; South Central--Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas; Mountain--Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada; Pacific--Washington, Oregon and California.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, January 1969 to date

Meat and period	Commercially produced							
	Supply			Distribution				
	Produc- tion 1/	Begin- ning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption	
							Total	Per person 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:								
January	1,858	296	69	7	281	62	1,873	9.5
February	1,630	281	79	6	271	50	1,663	8.4
March	1,659	271	186	9				
1st quarter	5,147	296	334	22				
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Veal:								
January	60	7	1	3/	7	4	57	0.3
February	53	7	1	3/	7	3	51	.3
March	53	7	4	3/				
1st quarter	166	7	6	3/				
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Lamb and mutton:								
January	55	14	1	1	10	1	58	0.3
February	42	10	5	1	9	3/	47	.2
March	45	9	21	1				
1st quarter	142	14	27	3				
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
Pork:								
January	1,170	256	13	21	251	30	1,137	5.7
February	1,051	251	28	22	264	19	1,025	5.2
March	1,132	264	51	20				
1st quarter	3,353	256	92	63				
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								
All meat:								
January	3,143	573	84	29	549	97	3,125	15.8
February	2,776	549	113	29	551	72	2,786	14.1
March	2,889	551	262	30				
1st quarter	8,808	573	459	88				
April								
May								
June								
2nd quarter								

1/ Excludes production from farm slaughter.

2/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies.

3/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1968		1969	
		March	April	February	March
					April 5/
CATTLE AND CALVES:					
Beef steers, slaughter, Chicago	Dollars per:				
Prime.....	100 pounds:	29.94	29.60	31.08	32.99
Choice.....	do.	27.75	27.49	29.11	30.19
Good.....	do.	26.04	25.93	27.18	28.00
Standard.....	do.	23.78	24.02	24.32	25.26
Utility.....	do.	21.52	22.10	21.68	23.53
All grades.....	do.	27.67	27.38	28.97	30.20
Omaha, all grades.....	do.	26.23	26.00	27.14	28.49
Cows, Chicago					
Commercial.....	do.	18.50	19.04	18.67	19.98
Utility.....	do.	19.09	19.88	19.02	20.43
Cutter.....	do.	17.95	18.41	18.30	19.58
Canner.....	do.	16.77	17.32	17.15	18.33
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul.....	do.	34.60	33.85	37.39	41.00
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/.....	do.	26.09	26.43	27.22	28.69
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle.....	do.	23.40	23.60	24.20	25.20
Cows.....	do.	17.50	17.80	17.70	18.70
Steers and heifers.....	do.	25.30	25.40	26.30	27.20
Calves.....	do.	28.10	28.10	29.70	30.70
Beef steer-corn price ratio 2/.....		24.2	24.3	25.0	25.9
HOGS:					
Barrows and gilts, U.S. No. 1 and 2, Chicago					
180-200 pounds.....	do.	19.38	19.52	20.48	20.89
200-220 pounds.....	do.	19.90	20.05	21.59	21.94
220-240 pounds.....	do.	19.71	19.87	21.50	21.78
Barrows and gilts, 8 markets 3/.....	do.	19.07	19.00	20.41	20.69
Sows, 8 markets 3/.....	do.	16.46	16.28	17.56	18.20
Price received by farmers.....	do.	18.60	18.50	19.60	20.00
Hog-corn price ratio 4/					
Chicago, barrows and gilts.....		16.9	17.0	17.8	18.1
Price received by farmers, all hogs.....		17.5	17.5	18.0	18.3
SHEEP AND LAMBS:					
Sheep	Dollars per:				
Slaughter ewes, Good, San Angelo.....	100 pounds:	10.00	9.88	11.56	11.50
Price received by farmers.....	do.	6.86	6.93	7.41	7.99
Lambs					
Slaughter, Choice, San Angelo.....	do.	26.88	29.13	28.00	30.69
Feeder, Choice, San Angelo.....	do.	24.81	27.50	27.62	30.69
Price received by farmers.....	do.	24.70	25.60	26.50	27.40
ALL MEAT ANIMALS:					
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100).....		345	348	362	375
MEAT:					
Wholesale, Chicago, Carlot,	Dollars per:				
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 600-700.....	100 pounds:	43.28	43.16	45.02	47.00
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 pounds.....	do.	42.31	42.21	44.15	45.86
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter.....	do.	37.84	38.26	39.16	40.76
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds.....	do.	55.44	57.16	58.97	60.97
Fresh pork loins, 8-14 pounds.....	do.	44.48	42.50	47.30	43.85
Retail, United States average	Cents				
Beef, Choice grade.....	per pound	86.4	86.2	90.0	89.9
Pork, retail cuts and sausage.....	do.	66.6	66.2	67.8	67.8
Lamb, Choice grade.....	do.	92.5	93.0	97.0	97.5
Index number all meats (BLS)					
Wholesale (1957-59=100).....		106.8	105.0	109.8	110.6
Retail (1957-59=100).....		115.3	115.0	119.0	119.1
Beef and veal.....		116.3	116.0	121.3	121.4
Pork.....		114.5	113.6	116.6	116.4

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Bushels of No. 3 Yellow Corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of slaughter steers sold out of first hands, Chicago, all grades.

3/ Chicago, St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

5/ Weekly averages.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1968		1969		
		March	April	February	March	April
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1957-59=100)		121	123	120	122	123
6-State Cattle on Feed Report						
Number on feed	1,000	5,969	5,989	6,820	6,381	6,489
Placed on feed	head	1,112	974	789	1,342	
Marketings	do.	1,092	1,141	1,228	1,234	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	2,241	2,286	2,356	2,423	
Steers	do.	1,201	1,246	1,239	1,277	
Heifers	do.	603	608	634	652	
Cows	do.	408	400	452	458	
Bulls and stags	do.	29	32	31	36	
Calves	do.	342	332	317	352	
Sheep and lambs	do.	796	865	769	815	
Hogs	do.	6,238	6,483	6,245	6,816	
Percentage sows	Percent	5	6	5	5	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,046	1,042	1,034	1,027	
Calves	do.	177	181	195	181	
Sheep and lambs	do.	106	104	108	108	
Hogs	do.	235	241	233	234	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	614	614	607	602	
Veal, per head	do.	99	103	109	101	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	52	51	53	53	
Pork, per head	do.	149	152	150	151	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	64	63	64	65	
Lard, per head	do.	24	25	22	22	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	10	10	10	9	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,372	1,400	1,427	1,454	
Veal	do.	34	34	34	35	
Lamb and mutton	do.	42	44	40	43	
Pork	do.	929	985	938	1,026	
Lard	do.	148	164	138	149	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	2,711	2,744	2,736	2,808	
Calves	do.	482	463	416	452	
Sheep and lambs	do.	884	980	808	864	
Hogs	do.	7,130	7,367	7,004	7,534	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	1,620	1,638	1,630	1,659	
Veal	do.	57	56	53	53	
Lamb and mutton	do.	46	49	42	45	
Pork	do.	1,060	1,113	1,051	1,132	
Lard	do.	163	179	149	160	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	254	225	281	268	
Veal	do.	10	9	7	7	
Lamb and mutton	do.	13	13	10	9	
Pork	do.	292	306	251	267	
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	636	618	597	604	

1/ Federally inspected, and other commercial.2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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LMS-167

MAY 1969

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Number of cattle and calves on feed April 1, by regions, and percent change from previous year, 1963 to date	7
2	Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1959-67	16
3	Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1959-67	16
4	Meat animals, meat and meat products: Value of United States imports and exports, 1966-68	21
5	U.S. imports of livestock products, 1963-68	22
6	U.S. exports of livestock products, 1963-68	23
7	Meat imports: United States, by countries, 1962 to date	24
8	Meat exports: U.S. exports and shipments by countries, 1965 to date	25
9	U.S. imports, exports, and net imports of beef and veal, pork, lamb and mutton, and total meat in relation to domestic production, 1962-68	26
10	U.S. imports of cattle from specified countries, excluding breeding animals and cows for dairy purposes, 1960-68	27
11	Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-69	28
12	U.S. meat imports and exports and percentage comparisons (carcass weight), 1968 and 1969	28

STANDARD SUMMARY TABLES

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, January 1969 to date	33
Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat	34
Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat	35